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1. The Czechoslovak Diplomatic Mission, set up in November 1949 in the Eastern Sector of Berlin, is regarded by the Czech government as much more important than its counterparts in either Paris or London. Whereas the Czech Military Mission in Berlin simply exists as a reporting agency, the Diplomatic Mission has the status of a policy-making mission. The main object of the Diplomatic Mission is to implement Czech policy in relation to East Germany, and insofar as possible, to influence the Germans to act in accordance with Czech policy. Long range policy is decided in Moscow, but its success depends in large measure on the efficiency with which personnel of the Diplomatic Mission maintain good relations with the East Germans. From the standpoint of freedom of movement west

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of the Iron Curtain, the advantage is on the side of the Military Mission with its four-power accreditation; visas and permits were seldom approved by the Western Powers for members of the Diplomatic Mission. [redacted] members of the Czech Diplomatic Mission had much more leeway in carrying out directives and in performing the duties of a diplomatic mission than their opposites in other satellite countries; this may be attributed in part to the conditions existing in East Germany; another reason may be that Moscow has learned its lesson from those countries which were taken over earlier and allowed no freedom of action in diplomatic dealings.

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2. At the time of its establishment the Czech Diplomatic Mission was headed by Otto Fischl, Czech Ambassador to East Germany. At that time Snejdarek was head of the Czech Military Mission in Berlin, and he had succeeded in building up good relations with East German politicians. When Fischl arrived, he told Snejdarek that he no longer need bother to continue making his contacts in East Berlin; Fischl himself would be responsible for such relationships. Fischl actually had no authority for this; he just wanted to run all Czech affairs in Berlin including the Military Mission. For the most part, Snejdarek ignored Fischl's order, but he did slack up in order to avoid direct conflict with Fischl. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was aware of Fischl's incompetency and therefore did not support him in his endeavors to take over direction of the Military Mission. Fischl was recalled in February 1961; he was replaced by Paul Hasek in June 1961.

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